product (at'1993-94 prices) for agriculture sector for the years 1995-96, 1996-97, 1997-98, and 1998-99 are given as under:

Year	Annual Growth Rate%
1995-96	−0.1
1996-97	9.6
1997-98	−1.3
1998-99	5.4

(c) The growth of agricultural sector has been fluctuating mainly due to variant behaviour of the climate and weather conditions in different parts of the country. However, the agriculture sector has been maintaining a long term growth over the years.

(d) The Ninth Five Year Plan envisages an average growth rate of 4.5%

Revised Pay Scales for ICAR Scientists

969. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the revised UGC pay scales for the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) scientists have not been implemented yet, though it was notified long back;

(b) if so, the details and reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Agricultural Research Service Scientists Forum has represented the matter to the Prime Minister; and

(d) if so, the details and what action has been taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The revised pay scales for the ICAR Scientists have been implemented vide council's letter No. 1(15)/98-Per. IV dated 27th February, 1999.

(c) and (d) A particular Unit of the Agricultural Reserch Service Scientists Forum has made representations to AM/PM and other authorities for early implementation of UGC pay package for ICAR Scientists. Revised pay scales of the Scientists have already been implemented vide Council's letter dated 27.2.99.

कृषि पर टर्मिनेटर बीजों का हानिकारक प्रभाव

970. **श्री कपिल सिब्बल:**
श्री बलवन्त सिंह
सामूवालिया:

क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि कि देश में कृषि क्षेत्र में टर्मिनेटर बीजों के प्रयोग से खाद्यान्न उत्पादन हानिकारक सिद्ध हुआ है;

(ख) यदि नहीं, तो उस पर सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है; और

(ग) कृषि क्षेत्र में टर्मिनेटर बीजों के उपयोग से क्या-क्या जोखिम होने की संभावना है?

कृषि मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सोमपाल): (क) और (ख) फसल पर बुरा असर डाले बिना उत्पादित बीजों की व्यवहार्यता नियंत्रित करने के लिये डेल्टा और पाइन लैंड कम्पनी तथा संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका के कृषि विभाग ने मिलकर "पौध जीन प्रभाव नियंत्रण" नामक एक पेटेंट संयुक्त राज्य पेटेंट सं॰ 5723765 पर कार्य आरम्भ किया है। इस विधि को "टर्मिनेटर प्रौद्योगिकी" कहते हैं।

टर्मिनेटर प्रौद्योगिकी के बीजों को कानूनी माध्यमों से भारत में प्रवेश की अनुमति नहीं दी गई है। इसलिए, देश के खाद्यान्न उत्पादन पर इसके क्षतिकारक प्रभावों की जांच नहीं की गई है।

(ग) कृषि क्षेत्र में टर्मिनेटर बीजों के साथ जुड़े संभावित जोखिम इस प्रकार हैं:—

(1) किसान पिछली फसल से बचाए गए बीजों को उपयोग करने की स्थिति में नहीं होंगे तथा प्रत्येक बुवाई के लिए उन्हें बीज खरीदने होंगे;

(2) इससे किसान की बीज चयन की विशिष्ट योग्यता तथा बीजों को आगे ले जाने के

लिये परंपरागत संरक्षक विधियों को खतरा है;

(3) इससे फसल जैव विविधता के लिये जटिलताएं पैदा होंगी।

Electricity Generation Through Fast Breeder Reactor

971. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to generate electricity through fast breeder reacter at Kalpakkam;

(b) if so, the details thereof, including cost of production; and

(c) when would the production start for commercial use?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposed Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor is of 500 MWe capacity. The project for construction (which is yet to be sanctioned) is expected to commence during the last year of the IX Plan and commissioned in 2009 A.D. The finalisation of the detailed design of the Reactor and technology development for manufacture of critical components, involving Indian Industries for indigenisation efforts, is on. The anticipated cost of production of electricity will be around Rs. 5.25/KWh.

(c) The production for commercial use is expected to start by 2010 AD.

Appointment of Officers in ET&T

972. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI : Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Director (Finance) and Director (Technical) in ET&T Corporation Ltd. have been appointed, if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) in the absence of Director (Finance) and Director (Technical) who is looking after the functions of these Departments?

(c) whether any consultant has been appointed by the Corporation, if so, the details thereof;

(d) what action the Corporation has taken to appoint Additional General Manager or General Manager (Finance & Accounts) against regular vacancy;

(e) whether the Finance and Accounts department is headed by a qualified Chartered Accountant;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(g) which are the departments Consultant (F&A) is heading?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) No, Sir. Keeping in view the recommendations of the Disinvestment Commission for closure of the ET&T Corporation Ltd., it has been decided not to fill up the positions of Director (Technical) and Director (Finance) in the Corporation.

(b) The functions of these positions are being looked after by CMD, ET&T Ltd. and other officials.

(c) Yes, Sir. One Consultant (Finance and Accounts) has been appointed.

(d) The Corporation has issued an advertisement in January, 1999 for filling up the post of General Manager (F&A)/ JGM(F&A) on contract basis.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) Consultant (Finance & Accounts) is looking after the following Departments of the Corporation pending filling up post of General Manager (F&A)/JGM(F&A):

1. Finance and Accounts
2. Internal Audit
3. Company Affairs & Legal matters